

HOUSE BILL 2172

By Hurley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-50-801 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to participation in athletics by home school students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 4, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-6-4\_\_.

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Extracurricular athletics" means any school-authorized or education-related athletic activity occurring during or outside the regular instructional school day; and

(2) "Home school" means any school conducted by a parent or parents or a legal guardian or guardians for their own children pursuant to § 49-6-3050 and shall include home schools that teach kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12), where the parents are associated with an organization that conducts church-related schools, as defined by § 49-50-801.

(b) A home school student shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular athletics at the public school to which the student would be assigned or authorized to attend according to the LEA, provided that:

(1) The student shall be enrolled in a home school conducted by the student's parent or legal guardian;

(2) The student shall be registered as a home school student with the local director of schools by September 1 of the current school year;

(3) The student shall meet the same academic and conduct standards required of other participants in the school's extracurricular athletics;

(4) The director of schools or the director's designee shall confer with the parent or legal guardian conducting the home school to determine that the student is academically eligible; and

(5) The student shall register with the school the student's intent to participate in extracurricular athletics prior to September 1 of the school year.

(c) Any student who is ineligible for participation in extracurricular athletics at the time of withdrawal from a public or private school to enroll in a home school shall remain ineligible to participate in such activities as a home school student until the student has successfully completed one (1) grading period and reestablished eligibility.

(d) Any insurance provided by an LEA for participants in extracurricular athletics shall cover any participating home school student. If there is an additional premium for such coverage, the participating home school student shall be required to pay the premium.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to participation in extracurricular athletics beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year.